

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:437
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
DECLINE IN OIL SEEDS PRODUCTION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether oilseeds production fell by 19% during 2002-03;
- (b) if so, the factors responsible for the fall; and
- (c) the steps being taken to bring the oilseeds industry out of the slump?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

- (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.437 DUE FOR REPLY ON 21ST APRIL, 2003.

(a): In accordance with the 3rd Advance Estimates, the production of oilseeds during the current year i.e. 2002-03 is estimated to be 155.7 lakh tonnes against 204.6 lakh tonnes during 2001-02.

(b): The main factor responsible for the shortfall in the production of oilseeds is severe drought conditions prevailing in some of the major oilseeds growing States.

(c): Some of the remedial measures taken and efforts made to increase the indigenous production of oilseeds and hence of edible oils are as under:-

- i. A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme is implemented in 28 States covering 408 selected districts to increase the production of oilseeds/edible oils in the country.
- ii. A Technology Mission on Oilseeds is in place to harness appropriate production, processing and management technology.
- iii. Intensification of research efforts to increase the productivity of oilseeds.
- iv. Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops, like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin.
- v. Better incentives to producers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.